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Page 18

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New MP for Niagara Centre



Niagara Centre's newly elected MP Vance Badawey stands beside a pile of election signs, after winning the federal election on Oct. 19. See story page 2.

ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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UPFRONT

■ **ELECTION:** Niagara Centre's new MP plans to bring the federal government back to the local level

Badawey's ready to work

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Drivers heard his horns and shouted congratulations to Vance Badawey as he made his way into his family business in Port Colborne the morning after the federal election.

The 51-year-old said he was overwhelmed by people sharing well-wishes with him, after a nearly sleepless night following his federal election win.

Niagara Centre's newly elected Liberal party MP said he's also impressed by the faith voters placed in him "to continue where I left off as mayor."

Despite election polls that had put him in third place, 19,432 people voted for Badawey—more than 2,000 votes ahead of second-place incumbent Malcolm Allen.

And Badawey, Port Colborne's former mayor, plans to waste no time before making the changes he said voters were looking for.

"I'm just so focused on getting to work and making a difference sooner rather than later," he said. "There's a lot to be done in this riding."

"The first thing I want to do is really sit down with the mayors and councillors and, of course, the business community and keep an open ear with the residents to in fact see what the needs are and bring them to Ottawa."

By doing so, Badawey ultimately hopes to bring the fed-



FRANKI IERMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Malcolm Allen, left, and Vance Badawey at M.T. Bellies in Welland after the federal election on Oct. 19.

eral government "back over to the local level."

He said the Liberal Party's \$125-billion Infrastructure plan was a deliberate effort "to address concerns we've heard loud and clear" from municipalities and residents.

With that in mind, he said he plans to ensure the new federal government hears "loud and clear what the needs are" in communities he represents. He said he also plans to ensure the government responds accordingly.

It has been many years since the riding was repre-

sented by a government MP. And being a part of the government, rather than the opposition member, will "absolutely" work in the riding's favour, Badawey said.

"There's no question that when you have a member of parliament that is part of the government, you would expect that we can move forward with a lot more," he said. "We have a very progressive plan, and now forming the government and having a member within the government in the riding, the expectations are going to be high to

in fact get a piece of that pie, so to speak, and bring some attention back here."

But at the same time, he said, he won't hesitate to work with other government representatives regardless of political stripe.

In the 14 years Badawey served as Port Colborne's mayor, he said he came to appreciate attention from upper-tier governments, particularly when it included infrastructure investments.

"Municipalities simply can't do it on their own," he said. "I look forward to bringing

attention back to this area."

He said the needs are obvious.

"There's a lot to be done in this riding. When you take a drive around, you can see it, whether it be jobs, industry, economic development in general or infrastructure investment. There's a dire need for strong attention to this area, and I would expect that between (newly elected St. Catharines MP) Chris Bittle and I, along the canal corridor, we're going to work very hard to ensure that a positive difference is made

sooner rather than later," he said.

Badawey said he hopes to work closely with Bittle, building on the common strengths of the two adjacent ridings.

"We're an anomaly with respect to being Canada's canal corridor," Badawey said, referring to the two ridings that are home to the Welland Canal.

"With that comes economic advantages with respect to our transportation infrastructure, with respect to our location, and the amount of serviced industrial lands that we have, the different incentives that are already in place provincially and regionally, and compound that with more that we can fight to establish in Ottawa to really expand on what's already here, and over time to bring business and jobs back to the area."

Although election polls weren't favourable leading up to election night, Badawey said he remained confident.

He said he prefers to place his confidence in face-to-face interactions with voters, rather the election polls. The voters told him they wanted change, he said, and the Liberal party platform was tailor made to bring it.

Badawey said by investing in the middle class, he hopes to help ensure Canada is "a country where everyone belongs."

"That's the bottom line. That's the way government should work, and that's our intention."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ ELECTION

Badawey seen as south Niagara's white knight

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

If there was ever a poster boy for economic development in Niagara's southern tier, it has been Vance Badawey.

During his combined 14 years in local politics, including two stints as mayor — a role that comes with a seat inside regional council chambers — Badawey has regularly got on his soapbox to espouse the merits of manufacturers and industrial products settling in his Port Colborne hometown.

His city, his followers should know by now, is identified as a Niagara gateway economic development zone. He reminds people of that designation — boosted by Niagara Region and the province — regularly.

Now stepping up to the national stage as MP in Ottawa and with his Liberal party in majority control of the House of Commons, there's hope that all Badawey's talk in recent years will translate into action.

"In Niagara Centre, I think we've got the right person at the right time, and that's real positive," says Dolores Ighiano, executive director of the three chambers of commerce for Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne-Welland and Niagara Falls.

The area business community, she says, will be looking toward the new federal government to create an environment that fosters growth: lower Employment Insurance premiums, investment in training

programs and, in turn, improved access to skilled labour.

She says investment in local infrastructure "needs to be done quickly while the economy is soft."

"I do think it's a positive that we have a majority government."

Not to take away from Niagara Centre's previous representation — the NDP's two-term Welland riding MP Malcolm Allen — but being on the decision-making team is a plus, Ighiano says.

"There is not a doubt in my mind that (Allen) was known as hard as anyone could be on our riding, but having said that ...

"No one knows south Niagara better. I don't think, than Vance Badawey. If we ever had an opportunity, it's now."

Longtime Niagara

College president Dan Patterson, too, recognizes the opportunities of having local representation in a majority government. As the college is a major player in the regional economy, Patterson is well aware of the gateway economic zone Badawey pushes.

"Now he's got a national platform," he says.

Patterson looks forward to bringing him and new St. Catharines Liberal MP Chris Bittle up to speed.

In weeks leading up to the election, the board of Colleges and Institutes Canada, of which Patterson is a member, wrote to the Liberal party. It is buoyed by the response it got: a promise to spend \$200 million on research and innovation in each of the next three years.

"The college is very encouraged by the election results," Patterson says of the expected increase in funding.

That's great news for Niagara College, which has put a big emphasis on ways

to create jobs through small- and medium-sized businesses development, best supported by its burgeoning Welland research and innovation centre plus its advanced manufacturing centre.

With a large network of supporters and beneficiaries of its cutting-edge work, the college is "well poised" to take advantage of Liberal investment in education, which the party views as essential to job creation and economic growth.

That's been a long-held ideal of the college, Patterson says, and an argument (the Liberals) buy in to.

Badawey is aware that he's been thrust into the role of white knight for south Niagara, but he says he

feels no pressure.

He says he'll be working to "expand" on local community improvement plans and economic development policies.

Policies now are in play to boost the Niagara economy through an economic gateway centre identified the length of the Welland Canal and an economic gateway zone in border communities.

To position Niagara to be more competitive globally, "I'll be working on establishing this area as a foreign trade zone," he says, adding it would level the playing field with the region's U.S. neighbours who already have that status.

"We need help, we certainly do,"

he says.

That help includes the need to secure a bigger chunk of infrastructure dollars. The Liberals have promised to double the Conservatives' Building Canada fund, adding \$60 billion in spending over the next decade to boost economic growth.

To get that assistance, Badawey says, will require continued solidarity of all four Niagara MPs.

"(Niangans) are not concerned about the political parties, they're more concerned about (us) delivering results. And that's our intention — to deliver results," he says.

"It's not going to happen overnight, but it's going to happen with a lot of hard work."

VANCE
BADAWEY

DAN PATTERSON

DOLORES
IGHIANO

■ COMMUNITY

Arts plan in works

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne invites the community to participate in a cultural community forum on Wednesday.

The art and cultural masterplan is being developed to benefit Port Colborne in a number of ways.

"Culture is an important driver in many ways, it has tourism opportunities

tied to it."

"Right now we are putting together an overview of what arts and culture are about. How does it fit in this community, the value it provides not just for tourism, but is also a major economic driver."

"There is a lot of culture here that is surprisingly out there it's just not been pulled together and framed out there in a comprehensive plan, to say here is what you currently have,"

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Answering the question why are we here?

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
 St Ignace of Antioch Orthodox Church

There was a recent debate at the University of Guelph on the question, "Why am I here?" The debaters were Dr Chris DiCarlo of the Society of Ontario Free Thinkers and Dr Andy Bannister of the Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. Rev. Royal Hamel attended the debate and reported that it was an enjoyable and stimulating meeting.

Dr DiCarlo spoke for 30 minutes on the accumulated knowledge of the human race, showing slides detailing the billions of galaxies in the universe, each of which contains about ten billion stars. He showed that in fact human beings are very tiny and therefore insignificant specks in the cosmos.

My reaction to this is that the bulk of the universe is not sentient, whereas even my

dog senses the shapes, scents and activities around him, and he has discernible purposes in life. Just because the universe is vast is no reason to conclude that a human being is insignificant. E.F. Schumacher wrote that "Small is Beautiful".

Moreover, Dr DiCarlo said that since matter is all that there is, we are extinguished when we die. But it is not proven that matter is all that there is. In the end this position is based on faith.

The young Bertrand Russell was intrigued by the opposing philosophies that mind is all there is, or that matter is all that there is. Russell was not amused by his family's quips, "Is mind all? Doesn't matter. Is matter all? Never mind."

Neither is it proven that death extinguishes a human life. There is evidence (not absolute proof) that there is individual life after

death of the body. The Twenty-third Psalm speaks of living in the house of the Lord forever. Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection was observed many times and by over 500 people. And then there are contemporary reports of being sent back to life after death.

Dr DiCarlo ended his presentation with an abrupt answer to the question, "What is the meaning of life?" He said, "There is none." The obvious response to this particular faith is to eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

And if most of the seven billion humans alive today decided to make up their own meanings in life, we would likely have a world in considerable chaos. Then the atheist David Hume's summary of life without law would prove true. Life would be "nasty, brutish and short."

Royal Hamel remarked about DiCarlo's conclusions, "I had never before seen with

such clarity the absolute bankruptcy of the atheist position." There is no good news in either the atheist or the materialist positions. Indeed there is no convincing ethic for Ayn Rand's virtue of selfishness, which is neither a virtue nor an ethic.

Why are we here? The faith-based Christian answer is that we are here because the God of holy love created us humans in his own image; that we are here to cultivate the earth and to multiply; that we are here to grow in mature faith, persistent hope and outgoing love to God's mercy and grace; that our death be the door to a life of ever-new beginnings; and that when Christ comes again to make all things new, the dead will be raised and the living will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:50-53). This is good news. This is a sound basis for living justly here and now.



Mirenchu is pictured in Montreal in September 1971 in this photo by Rene Beauchamp.

HANDOUT/POST MEDIA NETWORK

Shipwrecks – Mirenchu

SKIP GILHAM
 For Postmedia Network

The Spanish built cargo ship *Mirenchu* was only two years old when it first came to the Great Lakes in 1970.

The 117.96-metre-long, 4,258 gross tonne freighter was sold in 1972 and was back through the St. Lawrence Seaway again that year as *Sierra Jara*.

Resold in 1980, the ship was sailing as *Acmi* when it ran aground on the Berbice River in Guyana on June 28, 1981. The vessel was refloated, taken to San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, birthplace of a number of former Toronto Blue Jays, and laid up.

Despite being declared a total loss, the ship was repaired and returned to service as *Altair 1* in 1983, became *Galazio Kyma* in 1990 and *Antares* in 1992. The latter was disabled in the Gulf of Mexico on Dec. 23, 1993, and abandoned by the crew in leaking condition. A salvage crew managed to get the ship to Mobile, Ala., where pumps were constantly operated to keep the vessel afloat.

This time it was not repaired and, on Sept. 26, 1995, *Antares* was towed out to sea and scuttled, as an artificial reef, about 29 kilometres south of Pensacola, Fla.

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■ **LIGHT OF DAY NIAGARA:** Meridian Centre show Nov. 6

After 30 years, Blue Rodeo still brings it

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

When a band hits the 30-year mark, they're pretty much heard it all.

Bazil Donovan certainly has. Blue Rodeo's original bassist has been there since Day 1, alongside co-founders Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor, and not much escapes his attention.

He has seen the crowds go from rowdy college kids to families with lawn chairs. He has watched concerts go from high energy rave-ups to more mellow affairs. And he's read those comments about Blue Rodeo's first five records being the only ones that matter.

That last one makes Donovan chuckle. As a music buff, he gets it.

"I'm guilty of it myself with some of my favourite artists," he says. "Do I really need the new Rolling Stones record? I think their best work is probably already out there. But then again, Bob Dylan still makes (great) records. Every now and then he comes out with a record where I go 'This is a really good record,' and he's seventy-something."

"I mean, you try and just go

past that. Whatever happens happens. Some people, after they've made 10 of them, they make great records. I figure if they're that bad, people won't buy them."

The rest of Blue Rodeo gets it as well. In 2012, the band's illustrious first five albums (*Outskirts*, *Diamond Mine*, *Casino*, *Last Together* and *Five Days in July*) were re-mastered and re-released by Warner Music in a boxed set. But skipping their work since would deny you the spacey rock of *Nouveau to Here* (1995), the back-to-basics songcraft of *Are You Ready* (2005) and the scattered greatness of 2009's double-disc *The Things We Left Behind*.

"Usually after we make a record, we can tell the level for excitement we have for it," says Donovan. "There's the odd time when, I have to be honest, I kind of want 'I don't think this is our best record.' I won't say that out loud because some other people worked really hard on it ... but time usually tells."

"We still go at it with the same intensity we always did, but I guess there's not as much on the line any more. Back when we were making the first five records, we were trying to break it in the States still. We

WHO: Blue Rodeo, Joe Grushecky, Eddie Manion, Joe D'Urso, Jason Heath, Bobby Mahoney, Miss Emily, Rob Baker & Gord Sinclair

WHAT: Light of Day Niagara

WHERE: Meridian Centre, 1 IceDogs Way, St. Catharines

WHEN: Nov. 6, 7 p.m.

TICKETS: \$75 premium, \$50 regular. www.lightofdaycanada.com

were concerned about all these things that we're just not concerned about now."

"Now we're just concerned about 'Do we like it?' We live with it, and that's basically what counts."

Headlining this year's Light of Day Niagara fundraiser for Parkinson's research, being held for the first time at Meridian Centre in St. Catharines Nov. 6, Blue Rodeo is like comfort food at this point. Few Canadian bands have been more enshrined, awarded and decorated. They have nothing left to prove, but are driven by a song-writing duo who refuse to let the brand grow stale.

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■ RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY

Niagarans asked to pay it forward Nov. 6

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Students will rake leaves for unsuspecting seniors. Staff will band out healthy snacks on campus. And positive, unexpected messages in chalk will dot Brock University's grounds.

It's all part of Random Act of Kindness Day Nov. 6, when Niagara celebrates being kind to others.

The university and Niagara College will participate in the annual event along with schools, organizations and individuals across the region.

"It's a good opportunity to celebrate a sense of community in Niagara and on campus," said Kristen Smith, Brock University manager of student and community outreach.

It's the sixth year the Niagara Community Foundation has held the initiative.

JoAnne Krick, the foundation's community initiatives manager, said participation has grown since the first year and they've been getting calls from individuals and groups who want to get involved.

"The momentum builds every year. So many groups are doing amazing things in their neighbourhoods," she said.

In the past, a day-care centre made art for seniors homes and an elementary school created a "kindness quilt" asking students to write something nice about each of their classmates. The YMCA handed out hot chocolate on a cold morning and individuals bought strangers coffee in drive-thru lines.

"Niagara is always a very kind community. Random Act of Kindness Day is a way to celebrate kindness," she said.

The foundation provides cards for participants to give to recipients when they com-

PAY IT FORWARD

What: Random Act of Kindness Day

When: Friday, Nov. 6, all day

Where: Everywhere in Niagara

How to get involved: Do something nice for someone. Give them an RAK card, available free from any Meridian Credit Union branch.

More information: www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/rak

Twitter: #rakdayniagara

mit a random act of kindness, asking them to pay it forward.

While there's no way to measure how many people participate in the initiative because one card can pass through multiple hands, the foundation prints 75,000 of them.

Residents are asked to share their acts of kindness on Facebook or Twitter on Nov. 6 with the hashtag #RAKDayNiagara.

"Kindness is contagious," Krick said.

"It's such a good feeling. It doesn't have to cost a thing. It helps us build community." Co-ordinator Jeff Sinclair said teams of students at each campus will be planning Random Act of Kindness Day activities.

"We try to get people to do things that are free, because it doesn't cost money to do kind things," he said.

Last year, for instance, the college's international students posted kind thoughts in their native languages on campus. Sinclair said that created an opportunity for students to engage with each other.

He said the college wants students to pay it forward, and he expects more students to

participate than last year.

"We feel very strongly it's important to do," he said.

Smith, from Brock, said the school will take students to seniors homes but they know some students will

have their own ideas for acts of kindness.

"We get the ball rolling and encourage students to get out on their own. We know students do several acts of kindness and we love

hearing about them, too," Smith said.

"It makes for a special atmosphere on campus."

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■ **GENETIC HISTORY:** Samples need to be taken before cremation

Harvesting DNA from the living and dead

TONY MARSH
Postmedia Network

You can now keep your own DNA, or that of a deceased loved one, at home.

For a fee, it can also be kept in a secure DNA storage bank, or it can be put into a keepsake custom jewelry pendant that can be worn around the neck.

While the service might be of little interest to older generations, younger people view it as a way to preserve their family's genetic history.

It's one more product now being offered by some funeral homes.

A decision to preserve a person's DNA needs to be made while the person is alive or while the funeral home still has the body. Once cremation has taken place all the DNA is lost.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in humans and all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA.

"The DNA of your family member might be important to you for medical or genealogical reasons so we are getting a percentage of people who are very interested in saving this information," said Brad Marsh, brand manager with DNA Memorial services and products.

"This is relatively new and the main reason that has been possible is due to a Canadian discovery. It is now possible to store DNA at room temperature," said Marsh. "Before that, DNA could be stored, but it required a lot of refrigeration and it was expensive. To do it at room temperature and for about \$300 it's quite new. Once you realize all the medical and genealogi-

DNA FACTS

- DNA is found in all living things.
- DNA contains a vast amount of information and degenerates over time.
- Siblings share 50 per cent of their genes, as do a parent and child.
- If you unwrap all of the DNA you have in your cells, you could reach the moon 6,000 times.

— Source DNA Memorial

cal information that is available, it's a no-brainer."

The customer gets a home vial that is kept in a jewel case.

"The family can just keep that with other important family documents or heirlooms," said Marsh.

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■ **CRIME:** Crooks create a sense of panic**Caller ID defeated by new trick: spoofing****TOMY RICCIUTO**
Postmedia Network

Thieves and fraudsters are using a trick called spoofing that allows them to defeat the caller ID feature on a telephone.

"You can spoof a phone number so that it makes it look like *The Tribune* is calling or the Niagara Regional Police Service is calling. The number will pop up, but you don't really know who is calling," NRP Det. Sgt. Paul Spiridi, head of the central fraud unit, said.

"There are a number of apps out there that will allow you to hide and mask your own number that is calling. We are seeing a combination of things. There are ones where the person's own number pops up, and they are also able to grab another number that is similar to the area, and that's because a lot of people will not pick up out-of-province calls or 1-800 numbers that are coming in because they don't want to deal with telemarketers."

These types of calls are enticing some people off guard because they actually think the police, Revenue Canada, their bank or credit card company is making the call.

"It's a way for them to get you to pick up the phone and then deal with whatever type of scam they are running," Spiridi said. "It gives them that air of legitimacy. It's the same thing when they spoof an e-mail address that might say Niagara Regional Police or CRA."

E-mail spoofing is more commonly known as phishing. It is often used by dishonest advertisers, and sometimes thieves, to falsify the "from" entry on an e-mail to try and trick

victims that the message is coming from a friend, bank or some other legitimate source.

"You just can't rely on an e-mail or a phone number that is coming in to you, because if I'm trying to rip you off I will lie to you and give you a bogus number to call," said Spiridi, who has been working the fraud beat for about nine years.

His advice is to never give out personal information to someone you don't know on the other end of the phone.

Spiridi said it's best to take the caller's information down and to call them back later. That will give you time to confirm if that name and phone number are actually from your bank or credit card company by comparing them with what is on their website or on one of your invoices.

"We get phone calls from other police agencies all the time. If I haven't dealt with that person before and I don't know the voice, then I will ask for a name and number and I will call them back," said Spiridi. "It's unfortunate that you have to be untrusting, but now there are so many scams out there it has come to that point."

Police say crooks are trying to create a sense of panic when they call someone and the display name or phone number appears to be coming from the police, Revenue Canada or your credit card company.

"These guys are very good at what they do," Spiridi said. "They might say that you owe money or that you are going to be arrested, or that your accounts have been compromised

and they need to confirm some information. You are not expecting a fraud when you see the call display and they get your guard down."

Once crooks obtain your personal information, police say they are quick to get online and make purchases.

"This is organized crime and they

are very good at what they do," said Spiridi.

Don't call the person back and blast them for bothering you because they might not be the person who made the call, he said.

Companies work to put a security feature in place and there are people

out there who are trying to find ways to beat it, Spiridi said.

"Some people will get these types of calls and hang up because they know they are not true, but they are preying on the ones they can catch off guard."

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ELECTION: 73.63% of eligible voters in Niagara West show up at the polls

Highest voter turnout in 22 years

TOMY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

Many Canadians decided the federal election was important and they wanted to be counted.

Preliminary figures from across the country show there was a surge in overall voting and results from Niagara showed the area was close to or higher than the rest of Ontario, which came in at 69 per cent.

Across the country, 68.49 per cent turned out to vote.

This was the highest voter turnout in 22 years, when nearly 70 per cent of voters showed up to mark their ballots.

According to Elections Canada, in the 2011 federal election the overall voter turnout was slightly more than 61 per cent.

"We are seeing a trend where more and more people have been turning out for elections," said Eliana Tossutti, associate professor of political science at Brock University.

"Our aging population has something to do with it and is one factor. We know that older people are more likely to vote than younger people. Also, at the beginning there was some kind of uncertainty about what kind of government we might have and it kept people's interest in the election," said Tossutti. "More competitive elections will induce higher voter turnout."

Niagara West — which includes Pelham and Wainfleet — had the best turnout with

50,761 voters out of 68,937 registered electors, or 73.63 per cent. The riding has a population of 86,533.

In Niagara Centre — it includes Welland, Port Colborne, Thorold and south St. Catharines — 54,400 people voted out of 82,305 registered voters, or 66.1 per cent. The riding has a population of 105,890.

In the Niagara Falls riding, 64,703 people cast ballots out of 1,02,602 registered electors, or 63.06 per cent. The population for the riding, which includes Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake, is 126,357.

In St. Catharines, 56,784 people voted out of 84,474 registered electors, or 67.22 per cent. That northern riding has a population of 110,596.

Tossutti said the leaders who are running might also have been a factor in turnout for the election. Some candidates might be perceived as being more charismatic than others and that might mobilize more voters, especially younger voters.

Tossutti said Trudeau attracted large crowds on the campaign trail, he generated more excitement in the race and, of course, he had the Trudeau name.

"The three parties were essentially tied at the beginning and then their fortunes changed at some point and there were some compelling and important issues during the campaign and Canadians were engaged and they were following the 78-day campaign," said Tossutti.



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■ ZERO INCREASE

Police draw line on budget

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

The Niagara Regional police services board has approved its first zero-increase operating budget in recent memory.

The \$133.6-million operating budget was passed last Thursday, and will be forwarded to Niagara regional council for final approval.

In July, the NRP's board asked the service to prepare an operating budget with no increase in order to meet a Niagara Region target.

"The service responded to budget pressures, and subject to identified unresolved factors... was able to meet the budget guidance," said a staff report prepared by police services finance manager Laura Rulko.

"I'd like to publicly thank the chief and staff," said board member David Barrick. "They've done a tremendous job at zero per cent."

"My understanding is in recent memory, it has never occurred (for) the service board, certainly in the last 10 years, I think the average has been about four per cent, year over year."

"There was a tremendous amount of work and effort... it sends a strong message," he said. "It gives the police service and board, I believe, a lot of credibility when we go to the Region (Nov. 5) and it considers their budget and our budget as well."

Barrick called it a "responsible budget" that maintains current service levels.

Board chairman Bob Gale expressed his "compliments, too."

"Like member Barrick (said), nobody can ever remember it coming in on a zero budget."

Some "significant risks" to the budget remain outstanding, according to the staff report received at the meeting. They include the impact of unsettled collective agreements.

Personnel salaries, benefits and other allowances make up 99% of the total operating budget.

A provincial grants program is also being consolidated with no information yet available on how that reform could affect the budget.

Among the spending reductions was a staff compensation cut of \$700,000, with other decreases including fuel price savings, discretionary spending, and program changes.

Meanwhile, the report says new deployment strategies and efficiencies began in 2012 in anticipation of moving into new police facilities. The new 207,000-square-foot headquarters in Niagara Falls is under construction but is expected to be complete by the end of the year, according to the NRP website.

The zero increase was "achieved through the realization of new headquarters savings, a pre-budget program review exercise, continued rationalizing and reducing of discretionary spending and repositioning resources," the report added.



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The flu makes an early return to Niagara

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Roll up your sleeve and wash your hands — the flu is back in Niagara.

And it has arrived early. The regional health department reported the season's first two laboratory-confirmed cases last

week.

According to its online reporting data, the cases are one of influenza A in St. Catharines and one of influenza B in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Niagara associate medical officer of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji says the first lab-confirmed cases in the region

last year fell in November, about a month later than now.

Early cases this fall were also detected in British Columbia and elsewhere in Ontario, he says.

The respiratory illness causes fevers, coughing, sore throat, body aches and pains.

It is spread by coughing, sneezing or coming into contact with surfaces or objects contaminated with the virus. Severe cases can lead to serious breathing problems or pneumonia.

Children with developing immune systems and the elderly, who may have other health-related issues, are

most susceptible to catching the flu, Hirji says.

The health department is encouraging people six months and older to get a flu shot from a doctor, a pharmacist (where available) or a public health clinic.

Hirji says the region has scaled back its general walk-in flu shot clinics to areas in Niagara served by fewer medical clinics and pharmacies.

The flu vaccine protects both individuals and people around them, particularly children and the elderly.

New this year for children is a nasal vaccine — a "flu mist" — which, says Hirji, has proven more effective than the vaccine delivered by needle.

Also this year is a new injection formula for all ages that protects against four strains of influenza, instead of three.

Best measures to prevent contracting and spreading the flu include getting vaccinated and washing hands regularly.

"Often, the most effective things," Hirji says.

Niagara Region Public Health discourages people with the flu or flu-like symptoms from visiting friends and family in long-term care facilities and hospitals.

Information on weekly flu activity in Niagara is posted to www.niagararegion.ca/healthfromoctober to May.

greg.furminger@postmedia.ca
Twitter: @GregH1nflrb

Symptoms of the flu not associated with a cold

sudden onset of illness
fever over 38°C
body aches
extreme fatigue
headache
chills

Tips to prevent getting or spreading the flu

get a flu shot
clean your hands regularly
cough into your elbow, arm/sleeve or tissue
clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly
stay home if you are ill

Upcoming flu shot clinics

Wear a short-sleeved shirt, no appointment necessary. Bring your health card or driver's licence.

Port Colborne: Monday, Nov. 2, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte St.

Thorold: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1 to 8 p.m. at Holy Rosary Hall, 35 Queen St. S.

Wainfleet: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1 to 8 p.m. at Firefighters Memorial Community Hall, 3107 Park St.

For more information, phone the Niagara Region Public Health infectious diseases program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7330.



CITY OF PORT COLBORNE - NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO CITIZEN COMMITTEES

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from citizens for positions on the following committees.

1. Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters (one position to be filled)

This Committee's mandate is to review and promote the overall health and well-being of the community in a manner that addresses the Social Determinants of Health, including: income and income distribution, education, unemployment and job security, employment and working conditions, early childhood development, food insecurity, housing, social exclusion, social safety net, health services, aboriginal status, gender, and race. Applicants must possess experience relating to matters addressed within the Social Determinants of Health.

2. Economic Development Advisory Committee (six positions to be filled)

This Committee's mandate is to provide a local perspective, guidance and expert strategic advice in the delivery of economic development services in the City. Applicants must be affiliated with the Port Colborne business community.

3. Tourism & Marketing Advisory Committee (three positions to be filled)

This Committee's mandate is to provide strategic input and advice to Council and staff on matters pertaining to destination development and tourism service delivery in the City. Applicants must be affiliated with the hospitality and tourism business community.

For further information regarding these committees, please visit <http://portcolborne.ca/page/committees>.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of the public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit <http://portcolborne.ca/page/committees> to access the policy.

In addition to the above eligibility criteria, applicants must:

- be eighteen years of age or older;
- be a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne;
- not be disqualified by the Municipal Act, 2001, Municipal Election Act, 1996 or the Planning Act;
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or a local board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website at the above address, and/or from the Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned up to and including November 13, 2015.

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Personal information is collected under authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and pursuant to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used only to evaluate the suitability of applicants. Questions respecting the collection of information should be directed to the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne.



LUKE HENRIK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Brock team, coach take active role to help young people

Badgers, kids stand up to bullying

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

More than 800 elementary students from across Niagara participated in Badgers versus Bullies at Brock University last week.

The students and teachers watched as Brock men's basketball head coach Charles Kissi spoke about bullying, stressing the importance of asking for help, by talking about his own experiences.

The students were engaged right from the beginning, asking questions as it went along.

"It's really important for us to take what we've learned and try to use it to help children who are being bullied, or even those who are doing the bullying themselves," said Anthony Volk, associate pro-

fessor in Brock's department of child and youth studies.

Kissi got the idea from McMaster University and adapted it to Brock. The Badgers versus Bullying event will be the first of several that will follow that theme, Kissi said. He hopes to continue the social awareness event to bring attention to mental health and related issues.

"It's really about creating some awareness around this social issue and really about engaging the community and bringing them in our house and showing them we are part of their community and we want to help lead," Kissi said.

Volk said adults don't often know when bullying is happening in their children's lives.

Only about 20 to 25 per cent of bullying ever gets reported to an adult, so the most important thing for adults to do is to keep the lines of communication open with children and teens.

The advice Kissi gave students was to "ask for help. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Be brave enough to take the help when it comes, and know that there is help."

"And it's not just for those being bullied, but also for those who are bullying. I think sometimes we often forget about those people and victimize them too."

Before lunch, Kissi got students pumped up for the Badgers' basketball game against the University of Victoria Vikings. The crowd chanted



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Brock University men's basketball head coach Charles Kissi speaks to about 800 students from across Niagara about bullying at the Badgers vs. Bullies event on Thursday in Welland.

"Go Badgers, Go!"

The Badgers won 99-69.

Kissi said next year he hopes the event can be hosted in a larger building. Brock had to turn away about 2,000 people because there wasn't enough space.

"We had an overwhelming response. Every single student should be able to attend this event" he said.

The importance of having the event was to make the point that athletics builds self-esteem. Volk and Kissi said athletics play an important role in the community. It teaches children to be team players and prevents them from being exposed to situations where they might be bullied.

Volk was another speaker who talked about the impact of bullying. He said children generally begin bullying around Grade 8, so it's important to start the conversation then. Kissi asked Volk to be part of the event because he has studied bullying for about a decade.

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ELECTION

Golden handshakes cost millions

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

ONLINE

A full list of pension and severance payments to be paid to former MPs is available here: www.taxpayer.com/media/2015MPPensions.pdf

Golden handshakes paid to former members of Parliament are costing millions of dollars across the country following the federal election.

And Niagara's two defeated politicians account for tens of thousands of dollars in severance and pension payments of that price tag, according to information released by The Canadian Taxpayers Federation this week.

In addition to a \$92,000 severance payment, former St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra, 49, can look forward to \$49,961 a year in pension cheques after he reaches age 55.

If he lives until he's 90, the defeated Conservative could earn \$2.5 million in pension payments after contributing \$124,992 to his pension fund during almost a decade as MP.

And although Malcolm Allen is not receiving a severance payment, the 62-year-old will receive an annual pension of \$34,219, after contributing \$89,164 to his pension fund during seven years as Niagara Centre's (Welland's) MP. Those annual pension payments will add up to more than \$1.275 million for the New Democrat if he lives to be 90.

Allen called his own pension income reasonable, although "it's still big pay cut" compared to the \$167,000 a year he earned during the years he served as MP.

Across Canada, 180 federal politicians who will not be returning to Ottawa will earn \$12.8 million in severance cheques, as well as \$5.3 million in annual pension payments. By the time those former politicians reach 90, their accumulative pension payments will cost \$209 million.

The Federation reported that eight out-going politicians will receive

annual pension payment in excess of \$100,000, including former Conservative cabinet ministers John Duncan from B.C. with \$132,394, Peter MacKay from Nova Scotia with a \$117,740 pension and Bernard Valcourt from New Brunswick at \$116,987.

Allen said the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has become far more accurate in reporting pension incomes for former politicians.

"They're closer to being accurate now than it's ever been in its life," he said, adding the federation used to base its calculations on outdated legislation.

"I think they're getting closer to the actual number now. I think they're right with my pension, I'm not certain but I think they're probably pretty close," he said. "Some of the others may be accurate, they may not be, because it depends on the length of service and the plans they were in initially."

Allen, however, would be certain about his pension payments "until I go and see them in Ottawa, when the pay and benefits folks get me to sign whatever forms I have to sign to tell me to go away," he said, laughing. Out-going MPs need to be 55 or older to collect their pensions after an election, but if they're collecting a pension they don't receive severance payments. MPs must also serve for at least six years before they're eligible for pensions.

Although younger politicians are provided severance payments, they can't start collecting their pensions until they reach 55.

Allen said former MPs also earn higher severance and pension incomes for additional responsibilities. Dykstra, for example, earns a few thousand more in his pension because he served as a parliamentary secretary.

While pension payments seem excessive for some former MPs, Allen said it's due to several changes made to pension plans over the past two decades.

"It evolved over time, and that's why the numbers are not quite always the same" for out-going MPs, he said.

Pension plans are set to change again at the start of next year, he added.

The taxpayers federation reported that currently Canadians pitch in \$17 for every dollar MPs contribute to their own pensions. But after reforms to the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act come into play Jan. 1, 2016, taxpayer contributions to the pensions of MPs and senators will gradually be reduced to \$1.60 for every dollar the pension recipient contributes.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ CONSTRUCTION

Wells of Hope volunteers looking for laser level



WAYNE CAMPBELL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Frank Memme, left, and Ben Obdeyn practise for a Wells of Hope school construction project in Guatemala. They are asking for donation of a small laser level.

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Postmedia Network

Hey buddy can you spare a laser level?

Wells of Hope volunteers Ben Obdeyn and Frank Memme, hope an appeal will ease construction chores on two small schools in a pair of poor Guatemalan villages.

The instrument guides builders to straight corners, walls, flooring, and ceilings.

When working on a mountain side, it's a special challenge, said Memme.

"Nothing is level."

The experienced builders volunteered for few weeks to put up the three-to-five room schools.

"We have one laser level but need a second," to work on both schools at the same time, said Obdeyn. "It has to

be small enough to put into a suitcase."

The schools are only eight kilometres apart. "But it takes more than an hour to go up, down and around a mountain," said Memme. Two levels would accelerate the projects.

Anyone with a level can call Obdeyn at 905-852-4721.

For Obdeyn, this is his 30th work visit to Guatemala. Memme has gone "12 or 13 times."

Niagara-based Wells of Hope primarily drills wells to supply clean water to poor villages in the mountains of Guatemala.

In just over 10 years, the non-profit volunteer agency has built 12 wells and installed piping systems to serve more than 53,000 people around the communities of Jalapa and

Jutiapa. The projects replace dirty water drawn from contaminated streams.

The two new schools will bring to 17 Wells of Hope has built for 2,350 students.

While they started out building wells, Obdeyn said, they found other needs to meet. Schools, health centre and other forms of community services such as bridges and cooking stoves became part of the program.

Children, who used to walk for hours to get water from polluted streams, now have time to go to school. But they lacked well-built schools.

Niagara school children have helped by donating backpacks to Wells of Hope filled with supplies for Guatemalan students and by collecting coins to build schools.

Wells of Hope maintains a camp for volunteers who pay their way from Canada to help for two weeks. They work on projects such as drilling, building schools, roads and bridges or providing dental and other health care.

For Obdeyn, this is his second tool request.

Last year, he asked Niagara residents for help since Guatemalan farmers had little except homemade hoes. They needed hammers and saws in particular.

Obdeyn received more than 2,000 tools in scores of tool boxes drawn from basements, garages and sheds across the region.

For more information about Wells of Hope, its projects and funding needs see www.wellofhope.com

■ POLITICS

No worries about Liberal majority for Wainfleeet, Pelham mayors

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Wainfleeet Mayor April Jeffs isn't concerned that Niagara West's Conservative MP will have to work with a Liberal majority government.

Wainfleeet moved from the Niagara Centre riding to Niagara West for the 2015 election. Jeffs said the move was a good one.

The municipalities in the riding have more in common, she said, including being rural areas with similar needs.

The people of Niagara West re-elected Dean Allison, while Niagara Centre elected Liberal Vance Badaway.

Jeffs has worked with Allison prior to the election on local projects. Allison worked with Jeffs to acquire funding for the Wainfleeet arena and will continue to work together on other projects.

"I find personally, as a mayor, the provincial government affects us far more than the federal, at the municipal level, especially rural," Jeffs said about any changes that might occur due to the change in Ottawa.

Although Jeffs isn't concerned about a Conservative MP working with a Liberal majority government, she said it will be harder to get funding.

"Typically it's easy to get funding when they are (in power) ... and from my experience they favour the ridings where they have sitting MPs" she said.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn has worked with Allison for a number of years and is looking forward to continuing their working relationship. He doesn't think the Liberal government will affect Niagara West and Pelham from accomplishing any of their local goals.

"If one takes to heart what prime minister-elect (Justin) Trudeau said, that he is wanting to work with everyone — that they are not enemies, that Conservatives aren't enemies or NDP, they are neighbours — I take it at face value that he wants to work together, so I don't see it as a problem at all," Augustyn said.

With Allison's experience being an MP since 2004, Jeffs has confidence he will do a good job representing the riding. Jeffs said Allison knows how to "make things happen" and will "manoeuvre" things if needed. She doesn't expect a huge change.

Last Tuesday Augustyn were purple to support both Conservatives and Liberals. Because there are two MPs from both parties representing Niagara he said he wanted to make the colours together.

"The people have spoken and, as Mr. Harper indicated, the people are never wrong, and I try to make that point. I look forward to working with the new government," Augustyn said.

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LOCAL NEWS

TELEVISION

Falls grandma stars in Canada's Worst Driver

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

The 11th season of Canada's Worst Driver will feature a Niagara Falls grandmother fond of speeding, texting and even putting on makeup while driving.

Tina here to shut my family up! says 46-year-old Tina Cook in a clip from the show's season premiere, airing Monday, Oct. 26, at 10 p.m. on the Discovery Channel.

Cook, who did not respond to interview requests this week, says her oldest daughter Ashley nominated her for the show. She's one of nine contestants who will go through the show's usual array of obstacle courses to try to improve her driving skills. The contestant who fares the worst is named Canada's Worst Driver, and in extreme cases, the show's driving experts

may contact the Ministry of Transportation to request the winning driver's licence be suspended.

"She's a d--- on the road," Cook's daughter says in the clip.

Cook, who has six children and six grandchildren, is then asked by host Andrew Youngusband what is the fastest she has ever driven. She responds "200 (km/h)." She's later seen driving more than 90 km/h on a Niagara street with a 50-km/h speed limit.

"Tina's speeding so fast she could have her licence suspended," a voiceover explains.

In a second clip, Cook is seen arguing while driving with another daughter, Amanda. She then pulls her pickup truck over to have drinks on a friend's porch.

"On the day we met her, Tina stopped to guzzle a vodka cooler and to throw back a shooter ... in less than five minutes," the announcer says.

Shortly after, Cook is seen narrowly missing an SUV as it pulls onto Lundy's Lane. "You are a f---ing hazard," she screams.

"Tina is a speeding, abusive bully on the road who feels entitled to drive however she wants," said Youngusband when contacted by Postmedia. "Her biggest challenge is going to be simply understanding that slow drivers, or even bad drivers, have just as much of a right to be on the road as she does."

"When she yells or tailgates a bad driver, she's terrifying them and making them far worse than they were before."



BELL MEDIA

Niagara Falls resident Tina Cook, behind the wheel, with daughter Ashley in the back seat, appears in Season 11 of Canada's Worst Driver. The first episode airs Monday.

Niagara has played a large role in the show, which debuted in 2005. Portions of the sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth seasons were filmed in Niagara Falls or St. Catharines, and the show's Driver Rehabilitation Centre, where most of the action takes place, is located at the Dumville airport.

Previous Niagara contestants were Faith Ann Stone of Niagara Falls in Season 1,

Dale Pitton of St. Catharines in Season 2, and George Firth of St. Catharines and Mariah Carriere of Port Colborne in Season 10.

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■ SKYLON

Niagara's tall tower turns 50

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

The Skylon Tower has been eclipsed in size, but it remains a significant landmark.

Aside from the falls itself, the tower in Niagara Falls — celebrating its 50th anniversary this month — is arguably the most identifiable building along the Niagara Falls landscape.

It's believed close to 50 million visitors have taken the 52-second ride in one of three glass-enclosed exterior elevators that glide up and down the outside of the tower's shaft, or climbed its 662 steps.

The tower is 160 metres high, and tourists have often been left in awe, as they stand

on the observation deck, overlooking the falls 236 metres below.

Many have also eaten at the tower's revolving restaurant, which seats 272 people. The room makes one rotation every hour, giving diners a 360-degree look at Niagara Falls and beyond.

The Skylon Tower opened Oct. 6, 1965. At the time, it was the tallest reinforced concrete structure of its kind in the world.

It was the tallest building in Niagara Falls until 2009, when the Hilton hotel tower, at a height of 183 metres, was built.

City historian Sherman Zavitz said the Skylon Tower was built by Pigott Construction Co. of Hamilton. Six hundred people worked on the \$11-million project, which took 17 months to complete.

"It's held up amazingly well," he said. "It's still a stunning site. It still looks as breathtaking now as it did 50 years ago."

Zavitz said although he can't remember the year, he recalls former prime minister Pierre Trudeau delivering a speech during an election campaign at the base of the Skylon Tower.

"I do think for locals, sometimes we take such things for granted because they're so familiar. But I think for visitors, the majority of them are quite taken with it. It sort of

drives the eyes, with its height and style."

The Skylon Tower is currently owned by the Yerlich family.

General manager George Yerlich Jr. said his family, which includes his father George Sr., mother Violet, brother Michael and sister Katherine, have owned the tower since 1986.

The original owners were four businessmen who got together and built the tower, including the Pigott family.

Yerlich Jr. said he believes the Skylon Tower is linked to Niagara Falls in a similar way the Eiffel Tower is linked to Paris, France, and the CN Tower is to Toronto.

RIDE THE ELEVATOR FOR FREE

To celebrate the Skylon Tower's 50th anniversary, Niagara residents will be able to take a free ride to the top until Nov. 20.

To take the free elevator ride, residents will need to show a piece of photo identification.

"Over the last 50 years, the community has supported us and been there for us every step of the way," said general manager George Yerlich Jr. "This is our way of simply

showing our appreciation and gratitude.

"It's true that there is always someone in the Niagara region that has either worked at the Skylon Tower or known someone who has worked there or been influenced by the tower.

"In celebration of our anniversary, we are asking Niagara region residents to reacquaint themselves with the Skylon Tower, the city and the view."

"We believe that we still have the best view in town. Some of the newer hotels have wonderful views, but we think that we're centrally located up front between the two falls and there's nowhere that we can match the view that we have here," he said.

"In a way, we think the

tower is a perfect height. Some of the other towers that have been built since, elsewhere in the world, are very tall. This isn't as tall, but if we were too tall, you wouldn't have that spectacular view of the falls, so we think it's perfect."

Continued on next page

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MIKE DIMATISSA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Verich family owns the Skylon Tower, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. George Verich Sr., surrounded by his two sons, Michael (left) and George Jr., as well as his daughter, Katherine.

Looking back – and up – as the landmark celebrates anniversary

From previous page

Verich Jr. said BH Architects, formerly known as Bregman and Hamann Architects, out of Toronto, were the firm that designed the Skylon Tower.

Verich Sr., who attended the opening ceremony of the tower in 1965, said he met important dignitaries at that inaugural, such as former Ontario premier John Robarts and New York governor Nelson Rockefeller.

Verich Sr. said the tower got its name when officials decided to combine the words sky and pylon. The idea behind the name, according to Verich Sr., was that the structure looked like a pylon driven into the ground.

Verich Jr. said he never gets tired of hearing visitors share their positive stories about the tower.

"When a person first gets on the elevator, and as the ele-

vator ascends and rises above the building and they get that first, 'Wow' view of the falls, we hear it all the time, we hear gasps from the customers, we hear the word, 'Wow' in many different languages," he said.

"People are just absolutely entranced by that view, and it's nice to be able to see that occasionally when I go up the elevator and I hear that from customers. It reminds me that it's an incredible wonder that we

have here, and there are many ways to see it, and we feel that we have a unique way to see it."

Niagara Falls councillor and former mayor Wayne Thomson has fond memories of the Skylon Tower.

Thomson, who was first elected in politics in 1968, got married to his wife, Bonnie, at the top of the tower in 1963.

Thomson said the tower is "without exception, one of the finest places to view the falls,"



The Skylon Tower, shown here under construction in October 1965. The tower is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month.

SKYLON TOWER FACTS

- 160: Metres high
- 236: Metres above the falls
- 52: Seconds it takes to ride elevator to top
- 662: Steps top to bottom
- 50: Years old
- \$11M: Cost to build
- 17: Months to build
- 600: People worked on construction

and has also played a significant role in hosting major events in the community.

They include the annual Stair Climb for Cancer fundraiser that is held at the tower, as well as being the site from where the late Jay Cochrane would walk on a wire to the top of the Hilton hotel.

"It has been a tremendous asset and a major feature on the landscape," said Thomson. "They picked the right spot. It still looks the same, and as soon as people come here from around the world, they look at that and say, 'Oh my God, I've got to go up that to view the falls.'"

ray.spteri@sunmedia.ca
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Coming Events

Coming Events

Personal Notices

"A COURSE IN MIRACLES"
 Study-Healing Group, WEDNESDAY
 November 4th 7PM, Port Colborne.
 FREE Intro Session.
 Location/Information:
 doct42@gmail.com 250-657-4705

Personal Notices

Personal Notices

Available Bachelorette

JANE, 43, is a beautiful, sweet girl who is a nurse and looking for the right man. Jane has never been married and has no children. She loves football, hockey, going to concerts, and being outdoors. She is very down to earth, and easy to get along with. And does not drink or smoke. She is not one to go to bars, and she has had a hard time meeting the right person in her small community. She is always up to try new things and open to new experiences. Jane is a bit shy at first, and she is nervous about dating, but really wants to meet the right person to settle down with. She is very open and accepting of people, she's very non-judgmental, and cares more about who someone is on the inside rather than on the outside. She is looking for a good man who is energetic, fun, adventurous, has a good sense of humor, down-to-earth, and a little bit romantic.

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